

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-3, 7-25, and 42-50 are currently pending in the application; independent Claims 1, 7, 10, 42, and 50 are amended by way of the present response.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-3, 7-9, and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 1-3, 7-11, 13, 42, 43, 45, and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,943,669 to Numata.

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claims 12, 14-25, 44, and 46-49 are allowed.

Applicants further express thanks for the courtesies extended by Examiner Rimell to Applicants' representatives during a personal interview on February 10, 2005. The following discussion, with the Interview Summary, provides the substance of the interview in accordance with MPEP § 713.04

Specifically, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 7, and 50 to recite "plurality" in place of the previous recitations of "a portion," which Examiner Rimell agreed overcomes the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

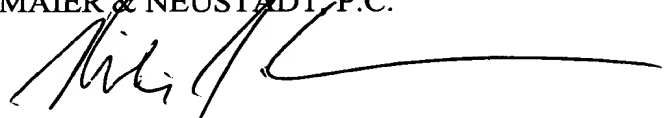
Applicants have further amended Claims 1, 7, and 50 to recite "a portion less than all of the items," have amended Claim 10 to recite "the transforming function calculating means calculating the representation transforming function by using an inner product calculated between the document feature vectors," and have amended Claim 42 to recite "the fourth program code means calculating the representation transforming function by using an inner product calculated between the document feature vectors," which Examiner Rimell agreed overcomes the rejection of Claims 1-3, 7-11, 13, 42, 43, 45, and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Thus, withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of Claims 1-3, 7-11, 13, 42, 43, 45, and 50, is requested.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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